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Chief, FI/Plans, ☐

12 March 1954

Chief, EE/FI/G

Project CARAVEL

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum of 15 February 1954, Subject: Expiration of Project Approvals

1. The development of the CARAVEL project has put CARAVEL in the class of projects which produce principally GE-type information. We have accordingly written RGM/IA (copy attached) as instructed in paragraph 4 of subject memorandum, requesting re-categorization of the project

2. We transmit herewith project outline for CARAVEL, as instructed.

☐ Chief, EE/FI/G ☐

Enclosures:

2 - as stated above

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EQQA-39745

DESENSITIZED

Chief, EN

per DOI 70-17

Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

Operational/CART/CARAVEL

Reference: EQQA-36023

SUMMARY: In the period covered by this report CARAVEL undertook official trips on behalf of his organization to Spain, France, and Switzerland. He is considering the possibility of accepting an appointment with the International Criminal Police Commission. Production is normal. There have been no security problems. No action is required.

1. Since the date of the last progress report, 24 February 1954, the CARAVEL operation proceeded along its normal course. Meetings were held at approximately ten-day intervals. Production consisted of the weekly progress reports which were processed in the usual fashion. My casual screening of them did not indicate anything significant in them that was not also known to us through other channels.

2. Toward the end of March CARAVEL took a flying trip to Madrid, Paris, and Bern to confer with local police officials primarily on the problem of concerted action to curb international counterfeiting. (FYI this is causing much concern to all of France's neighbor countries. French law punishes very strictly the counterfeiting of French currency but takes a rather liberal view on other counterfeiting. With border controls constantly diminishing in Western Europe, counterfeiters base themselves in France and thus operate into the neighboring countries with a certain degree of immunity.) CARAVEL's purpose was to persuade the Swiss and Spanish authorities to support the German position for uniformly strict legislation at a conference on counterfeiting which was to be held in Wiesbaden during the first week of April.

3. Conversations with CARAVEL with reference to a proposed visit of KURIOT personnel to the BKA were covered in a separate memorandum.

4. CARAVEL is considering a change in his personal status. He has always demonstrated an inclination toward things international and he feels quite flattered that, according to informal advice, he is now being considered for a leading position in the International Criminal Police Commission, with headquarters in Paris. This does not imply that CARAVEL is

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unhappy in his present position; quite the contrary. He feels that both he and his office have made very considerable progress in recent years and that they have gained a general recognition in Germany and abroad. All things being equal, I don't think CARAVEL would consider a change in his position. What brings the problem into immediate focus, however, is the anticipated retirement of Dr. Jess as President of the RKI and CARAVEL's concern that the position would go to a political appointee in whom he personally would have no confidence. The two leading candidates are said to be Dr. Mosheim and Dr. Schmidt, both of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. CARAVEL says he would be reluctant to serve under either one of them and should such an appointment materialize he would actively go after the international assignment. CARAVEL, of course, is too young to be considered for the position of the President and he, too, accepts this as a fact.

5. From our point of view CARAVEL's transfer to the international scene would be a loss, although he might possibly be of some use in his new capacity. This I am unable to judge at the present time. However, we would certainly lose our window into the German security scene and for this reason I will try to prevail on CARAVEL to stay in his current position. In the long run, this may not prove to be too difficult. He likes the scope of his present job; he likes the location; he is comfortably settled and quite close to his hometown to which he still goes frequently on weekends and holidays. Also, it may be recalled, CARAVEL goes through an emotional crisis every time a new superior is appointed. I am making particular reference to Harry Södermann who was first bitterly resented and later enthusiastically supported by CARAVEL. Personally, I think Mosheim would be an acceptable appointment. I know him well. He is a friendly old fellow, and very pro-American. He is not much interested in police matters and probably quite ignorant in the criminal police field. I also met Schmidt, but I can't say that I really know him. He is, at the present time, the Interior Ministry referent on the RFV.

6. As a note of interest, UTILITY proposed that a meeting be held between him and the leading personnel of the RKI in the week or so following Easter. CARAVEL will attend the meeting.

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